

No. 81857-6

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

COMMUNITY CARE COALITION OF WASHINGTON *et al.*

Petitioners,

v.

SAM REED, Secretary of State,

Respondent,

and

PEOPLE FOR SAFE QUALITY CARE and LINDA LEE,

Interveners.

DECLARATION OF NATHASJA SKORUPA

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I, Nathasja Skorupa, hereby declare the following under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington.

1. I am the Coordinator for Leadership Development and Member Mobilization for SEIU Healthcare 775 NW. During much of the petition drive on Initiative 1029, my responsibilities included organizing volunteer and member signature gathering on the I-1029 petition. In so doing, our union was providing support to member Linda Lee and the approximately 85% of our membership that supports Initiative 1029.

2. Our signature gathering campaign was carried out by a well organized team of volunteers and professionals. Every signature gatherer understood that I-1029 was an initiative to the people and that we were working to place the measure on the ballot in November 2008.

3. No signature gatherer was ever told that I-1029 was an initiative to the Legislature. I never heard any reference to an initiative to the Legislature until after the signature gathering campaign was over, when I learned about the typographical error in the petition.

4. While our "rap" to voters largely focused on the merits of the initiative, we would often tell voters that the measure was going to the voters. This would happen when someone hesitated in signing the petition or if someone asked about the process.

5. Voters often decided to sign the petition after we explained to them that their signature would place the measure on the ballot. Moreover, we trained our signature gatherers to explain that we were using the initiative process because the legislative process had not worked to deliver needed reform and that we could not wait any longer. I was asked to compile some of this training material, when the typographical error was brought to our attention, and it was sent to Secretary of State Reed so that he could see that we were telling voters that we were using the initiative process to take the issue to the voters because the legislature failed to act. **Attachment A.**

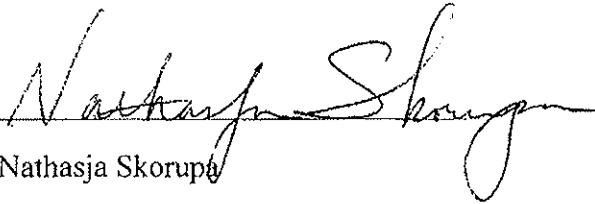
6. Over the course of our signature gathering campaign, we collected over 318,000 signatures. In collecting those signatures, we spoke to many more voters than that. Yet, to my knowledge, *nobody* ever brought the petition's error to our attention. I know that I never read or discussed the boilerplate petitioning language during the petition drive.

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Stated under oath this 20th day of August, 2008, in Seattle
Washington.


Nathasja Skorupa

Attachment A

I-1029: The Quality Long-Term Care Initiative
Petitioning Rap and Talking Points

Opening Sentence (to get people to stop):

- Sign here to protect seniors/Help protect seniors
- Sign here for quality care for seniors/help ensure quality care for seniors

Rap

- You know, to be a hairdresser you have to be certified with 1000 hours of training. But to provide care to a vulnerable senior with alzheimers or dementia you need little or no training at all. This initiative requires caregivers to be certified with improved training and a federal background check.
- Vulnerable seniors and people with disability deserve to be able to get quality care in their homes and communities. But right now caregivers have to get little or no training, and many don't even need to pass a federal criminal background check. This initiative will ensure high standards and protect seniors.

Additional Information (mostly to respond to questions)

- Initiative specifics: The initiative will require home care workers to get 75 hours of training – the same standard the federal government sets for nursing home workers. It also requires caregivers to pass a certification test and a federal criminal background check. It doesn't apply to hospitals or nursing homes which already have high standards, but to in-home care, adult family homes, and boarding homes which have low or no training standards.
- Who supports/opposes: We're just now starting the campaign, but similar legislation in Olympia was backed by Alzheimers Association, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the ARC, and major home care agencies. It was opposed by some for-profit boarding home and adult family home companies.
- Cost: The state hasn't costed it out yet but a similar version in the legislature was estimated to cost the state about \$15 million a year. Since it's Medicaid funding the Federal Government will automatically match whatever the state spends.
- Why an initiative: We've gone to the legislature twice to pass the legislation, and there was even a task force of legislators, state agencies, and advocates that proposed similar legislation, but special interests stopped it from passing. As the senior population grows and more people need care, we really need to build a well-training workforce to care for them, so we don't think we can afford to keep waiting.